

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CU-02 NIC-01 DRC-01 /066 W

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R 151429Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1481

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12357

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: COMMENT ON NEW ARRESTS.

REF: ADDIS 12244

1. THE ARREST OF ETHIOPIA'S FORMER DEFACTO MINISTER OF LABOR, LT. MICHAEL AMEDE, WHOM WE THINK OF AS CLEAN, IS MOST LIKELY DUE TO FACT HE IS A NEPHEW OF THE DETAINED RAS ASRATE KASSA. AS DEPT AWARE, SUBJECT IS, OF COURSE, ALSO A FORMER US LEADER GRANTEE.

2. DR ESHETU CHOLE, ACTING DEAN OF THE ARTS FACULTY OF HSIU, WHO HAD JUST TAKEN OVER FROM TAYE GULILAT, IS CONSIDERED A RADICAL OF THE LEFT EVEN BY STUDENT STANDARDS. HE IS VIEWED AS THE PATRON OF ATO NEGA, THE MOST OUTSPOKEN MARXIST-LENINIST ON THE HSIU CAMPUS. ESHETU IS VERY BRIGHT. HE HAS LONG BEEN A LEADER OF HSIU RADICALS, AND AN ACTIVIST ONE AT THAT. WE ARE TOLD HE WAS TAKEN FOR BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE USSR, PASSING OUT ANTI-AFCC PROPOGANDA AND FOR ADVOCATING THE IMMEDIATE TRIAL OF DETAIN-  
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EES AT 4TH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS. A KINGPIN IN THE LINEUP OF

THOSE MORE OR LESS SHARING HIS POLITICAL ORIENTATION, SUCH AS PROFESSORS TAYE AND NEGUSSIE (POLITICAL SCIENCE), HIS ARREST COULD EITHER CONSOLIDATE OR FRAGMENT HSIUS POLITICAL LEFT. A KNOWLEDGEABLE AMERICAN HAS ESTIMATED ESHETUS HARD CORE FOLLOWING AT 10-15 PER CENT OF THE HSIU STUDENT BODY.

3. THE DETENTION OF GETANEH BOGALE, CHAIRMAN OF ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, CAME AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE. WE KNOW GETANEH AS A MODERNIZER, OUTGOING AND REFORM-MINDED. HE IS THE CHURCH WORLD SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE HERE AND AN EDUCATOR WHO CHAMPIONED SELF-REFORM FOR THE ARCHAIC EOC. AS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, WE PRESUME HIM TO HAVE HANDLED FUNDS, AND HIS DETENTION MAY WELL BE RELATED TO THAT ASPECT OF HIS WORK.

4. ATO SAMUEL ALEMAYEHU'S ARREST IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING. ATO SAMUEL WAS THE CHIEF OF THE OAU SANCTIONS DIVISION. HE IS KNOWN TO US AS A MAN POSSESSED OF VERY STRONG ANTI-AMERICAN VIEWS. HE IS ALSO VERY CLOSE TO A RADICAL FACTION IN THE AFCC, WITH WHICH HE HAS HAD INTIMATE RELATIONS FROM A VERY EARLY STAGE OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. SEVERAL PAMPHLETS HAVE, OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, CIRCULATED IN TOWN ACCUSING SAMUEL ALEMAYEHU OF BEING AN AGENT OF THE CIA. HE IS NOT.

5. OAU ASSISTANT SEC GEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ONU TOLD EMBOFFS THAT ETHIOPIAN POLICE CAME, GUNS IN HAND, TO ARREST SAMUEL IN THE SECRETARIAT BUILDING. THEY WERE DIVERTED TO ONU, WHO TOLD THEM THAT UNDER THE OAU HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WITH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVT THEY COULD NOT TAKE THE SUBJECT UNLESS THE SEC GEN WAIVED HIS (SAMUEL'S) IMMUNITIES. THIS WAS ON OCT 8. ACCORDING TO ONU, SAMUEL WAS ARRESTED AT HOME THAT EVENING, IMMUNITIES RELATED TO HIS EMPLOYMENT AT OAU NOTWITHSTANDING. ONU SAID HE HAD MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE ETHIOPIAN MOFA BUT THAT, CLEARLY, THE LATTER HAD NO LAISON WITH THE ARRESTING AUTHORITIES. ONU ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT A MEMBER OF THE AFCC HAD ASKED HIM SUBSEQUENTLY WHY OAU HAD BEEN HARBORING A CIA SPY FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS. THIS SUGGESTS, IRONICALLY, THAT AT LEAST SOME MEMBER OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE BELIEVE THE STUDENTS TRACTS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT SAMUEL ALEMAYEHU IS CLOSE TO HIS FELLOW GAJJAMI COL. ALEM ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN, WHO RECENTLY SURRENDERED HIMSELF TO THE

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DIRG (ADDIS12135). WE EXPECT THAT THOSE WHO ORDERED HIS ARREST -IF NOT THOSE WHO SPOKE TO ONU ABOUT HIS PURPORTED CIA AFFILIATION- TOOK HIM FOR THAT REASON AND BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL RADICALISM.

6. WE THINK WOZ. DESTA GEBRU'S ARREST GREW OUT OF CHARGES THAT SHE HAS BEEN MISAPPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM A SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION WITH WHICH SHE WAS CONNECTED.

7. THE UNSPECIFIED CHARGES OF BEING AGENTS AND INSTRUMENTS OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS REPORTEDLY INCLUDE, AT LEAST AS CONCERNS THOSE ARRESTED FROM THE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE (ABTEW, ABERA), THE CHARGE OF PASSIGN DOCUMENTS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

COMMENT: WE HEAR BUT HAVE NOT YET CONFIRMED THAT FOREIGNERS IN QUESTION ALLEGEDLY INCLUDE RUSSIANS, GERMANS AND AMERICAN.

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